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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : H. PRINZING et al.

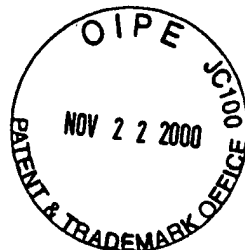
Group Art Unit: 1731

Appln No. : 09/228,658

Examiner: D. Walls

Filed : January 12, 1999

For : PRESS DEVICE AND METHOD OF USING THE SAME



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98,
Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a European Search Report dated October 1, 2000
conducted in European Patent Application No. 98121252.5-2314 which is a counterpart of the
above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

(1) European Patent Application No. 0 745 725 A2, published December 4, 1996, as an
"A" category document (i.e., a document relevant to the technological background of the invention).

In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 5, 10 - 13,
and 21 - 28 of the European application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit
herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,908,537 issued to Bentele et al. on June 1, 1999, which is

identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited

document and U.S. Patent No. 5,788,817 issued to Bentele et al. on August 4, 1998, which is

identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited

document and is listed as item (2) below;

(2) U.S. Patent No. 5,788,817 issued to Bentele et al. on August 4, 1998, as a "P" category document (i.e., an intervening document), and as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 3, 5, 10 - 13 and 20 - 28 of the European application. Applicants note that the above-cited document was previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 12, 1999. Therefore, a copy is not being submitted herewith. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,908,537 issued to Bentele et al. on June 1, 1999, which is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited document. Applicants further note, that the U.S. patent family member is also identified by the annex as a U.S. family member of item (1) and is listed above; and

(3) German Patent Application No. 297 06 432 U1, published July 24, 1997, as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1 and 2 of the European application.

Copies of the above-listed documents (1) and (3) (including the European Search Report) are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Applicants, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), certify that items of information (1) and (3) contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Supplemental

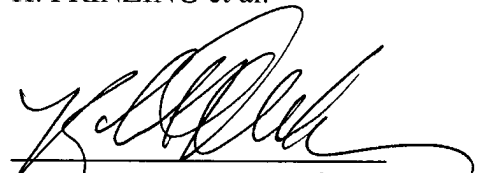
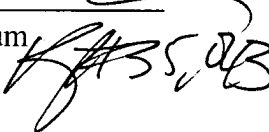
Information Disclosure Statement.

Moreover, Applicants submit herewith U.S. Patent No. 5,753,083 issued to SCHIEL et al. May 19, 1998, which is a U.S. patent family member of European Patent Application No. 0 752 495, which was cited by the Examiner in the March 8, 2000 Office Action. Thus, this document is being submitted for the Examiner's convenience, and, therefore, no fees should be required in considering this document.

Of course, should any fees be deemed necessary for consideration of this document, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
H. PRINZING et al.


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November 17, 2000
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